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an index file containing information usable by gateways for locating an audio segment in the audio segments file; and

for exporting the audio package to a gateway.

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22. (once amended) A computer-readable medium comprising a data structure for storing an audio segment containing an announcement to be played by a gateway in a network, the data structure comprising:

(a) a first section for storing an audio segment containing an announcement to be played by a gateway in a network; and

(b) a second section for storing information indicating the number of audio segments in the first section.

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23. (once amended) The computer readable medium of claim 22 wherein said data structure further comprises a third section for storing check data for synchronizing the audio segment with a record in an index file usable by the gateway to locate the audio segment in the first section.

24. (once amended) The computer readable medium of claim 22 wherein the first section includes a plurality of audio segments at locations corresponding to offset values in an index file usable by the gateway to locate the audio segments in the first section.

25. (once amended) A method for distributing audio data to a gateway in a network, the method comprising:

(a) receiving a request from a user for selecting an audio segment containing an announcement to be played by a gateway in a network;

(b) building an audio package including the audio segment selected by the user contained in an audio segments file and also including an index file; and

(c) exporting the audio package to the gateway.

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cont

27. (once amended) The method of claim 25 wherein building an audio package includes generating an audio segments file for containing the audio segment selected by the user and

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further comprises generating the index file containing information regarding the audio segment selected by the user.

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28. (once amended) The method of claim 25 wherein building an audio package includes generating a catalog file containing descriptive information regarding the audio segment selected by the user.

30. (once amended) A method for building an audio package including an audio segment containing an announcement to be played by a gateway in a telecommunications network, the method comprising:

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   (a) storing, in an audio database, audio segments to be played to an end user in a network;

   (b) generating an audio package including a subset of the audio segments in the audio database, wherein generating an audio package includes generating an audio segments file containing the subset of audio segments and an index file containing information for locating audio segments in the audio segments file; and

   (c) exporting the audio package to a gateway.

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32. (once amended) The method of claim 30 wherein generating an audio package includes generating a catalog file including records containing information describing the audio segments in the audio segments file.

37. (once amended) A method for provisioning audio on a gateway comprising:

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   (a) storing a first audio package definition in an audio database, the first audio package definition containing information sufficient to allow creation of a first audio package containing audio to be played on a gateway, said information including a audio segments file and an index file including an offset and a length usable by the gateway for locating audio segments in the audio segments file; and

   (b) in response to a first user request, accessing the audio database, locating the first audio package definition, creating the first audio package based on the definition, and exporting the audio package from the audio database.

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Please insert new claims 44-46 as follows:

--44. The system of claim 1, wherein said audio package builder is adapted to export the audio package to a gateway.

45. A system for generating an audio package containing an audio segment to be played by a gateway in a telecommunications network, the system comprising:

 an audio database for storing audio segments containing announcements to be played to an end/user in a network;

 an audio package builder/export tool, positioned remotely from the gateway for accessing the audio database to build an audio package including:

  an audio segments file for storing an audio segment to be played by the gateway in the network;

  an index file containing information including an offset and a length usable by the gateway for locating the audio segment in the audio segments file; and

  a catalog file containing information describing the audio segment in the audio segments file; and

 the audio package builder/export tool further adapted to export the audio package to the gateway.

46. The system of claim 45 wherein the catalog file contains information selected from the group consisting of: prompt text, title, voice talent, and date recorded. --.

Attached is a marked-up version of the amendments made to the application by the current response. The attachment is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

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